

Mental Health Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2015
East Greenwich High School
300 Avenger Drive
East Greenwich, RI 02818

In attendance: Amanda Barnes, Peggy Bonk, Lindsay Daskalopoulos, Sharon Foley, Ann Horgan, Shawna Iannotti, Nina Mackta, Carolyn Mark, Nora Santamour, Rachel Silverman, Brad Wilson

AGENDA

I. Harvard Medical School Mental Health Conference

Nora Santamour provided a detailed review of her experience at this conference. Her detailed notes are included as an attachment to these minutes. Lindsay Daskalopoulos also attended the conference and echoed Ms. Santamour's comments that it was a very worthwhile conference. There is interest in bringing individuals with content expertise down from Boston to start a larger conversation regarding mental health in education. The group will revisit this idea in the Fall.

II. Program Assessment Update

The Program Assessment sub-group reached out successfully to all six schools, and, utilizing the mental health program assessment protocol that was developed, was able to gather some very good information regarding what is working well in our schools and where there are areas for improvement. Carolyn Mark will gather all of this information and put it into a report that can be shared with the school committee. She will circulate the draft report in advance to ensure that it has captured all of the relevant information.

III. Mental Health Awareness Month Debrief

While the group of students that took the lead on school-based initiatives fell short of their own goals, some great things were accomplished during the month of May, including a mental health poster campaign at Cole as well as high school student visits to Cole and Hanaford to talk with younger students about moving up into the next school. It was noted that one of the challenges that Cole students face is the idea that at the middle school level and below, teachers teach students. In high school, teachers

teach subjects. This transition can be a challenge for students needing more individualized support. The students indicated that the Voices of Beauty performance (organized by EGHS and Citizens Who Care), while great, ended up being a mixed experience because not every student was able to attend so those that might have benefited most missed out. There could also have been better preparation and more post-performance debriefing, but overall it seemed that this kind of performance had the potential to be quite impactful. It was GREAT that our own spoken word students had the opportunity to perform.

IV. Data Collection Update

V. End-of-year Report to School Committee

Carolyn Mark will assemble an overall Mental Health report to the school committee which will capture not only the program assessment work but also data collection, mental health first responder training, and stakeholder engagement.

VI. Next steps

This was the last Mental Health Subcommittee meeting for the school year. The group will reconvene in the Fall.